

His Majesties
GRACIOUS
S P E E C H,

Together with the
Lord Chancellors,

To both Houses of
PARLIAMENT.

On Thursday the 17th of January 1675.



EDINBURGH,
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Sacred Majesty. Anno DOM. 1676.

CUM PRIVILEGIO.

His Majesty

GRACIOS

P E E C H

THE

Lord Chancellor



EDMUND
Stated Majesty, 1871
from the City of London, 1871

CIVIL SERVICE

His Majesties
GRACIOUS
S P E E C H
To both Houses of
P A R L I A M E N T,

On Thursday the 15th day of February, 167.

My Lords and Gentlemen,



Have called you together again after a Long Prorogation, that you might have an opportunity to repair the Misfortunes of the Last Session, and to recover and restore the right Use and End of Parliaments.

The time I have given you to recollect your Selves in, and to consider whether these Differences tend, which have been so unhappily managed and improved between you, is enough to Leave you without all Excuse, if ever you fall into the Like again.

I am now resolved to let the World see, That it shall not be My Faults if they be not made happy by your Consultations in Parliament.

For I declare My Self very plainly to you, That I come prepared to give you all the Satisfaction and Security in the great Concerns of the Protestant Religion, as it is established in the Church of England, that shall reasonably be asked, or can consist with Christian prudence.

And I Declare my Self as freely, That I am ready to gratifie you in a further Securing of your Liberty and Property (if you can think you want it) by as many good Laws as you shall propose, and as can consist with the Safety of the Government, without which there will neither be Liberty nor Property left to any man.

Having thus plainly told you what I am ready to do for you, I shall deal as plainly with you again, and tell you what it is I do expect from you.

First, I do expect and require from you, That all occasions of Difference between the Two Houses be carefully avoided, for else they who have no hopes to prevent your good Resolutions, will hope by this Reserve to hinder them from taking any effect.

And that all men Judge, who is well for Liberty of Conscience, that what Follows
 such Differences as tend to Dissolve all Parliaments; or I, that would Preserve this
 and all Parliaments from being made Useless by such Dissentions.

In the next place, I desire you to consider the necessity of Building more Ships, and
 how much all our Safeties are concerned in it.

And since the Additional Revenue of Excise will shortly expire, you that know Me to be
 under a great Burden of Debts, and how hard a shift I am making to pay them off as fast
 as I can, I hope will never deny Me the continuance of this Revenue, and some reason-
 able supply to make My Condition more easie.

And that you may be satisfied how impossible it is (whatsoever some Men think) to
 support the Government with Less than the present Revenue, you may at any time see the
 Yearly Establish'd Charges; by which it will appear, That the constant and unavoidable
 Charge being paid, there will remain no Overplus toward the discharging those Con-
 tingencies which may happen in all Kingdoms, and which have been a considerable charge
 to Me this last Year.

To conclude, I do recommend to you the Peace of the Kingdom, in the careful preven-
 tion of all Differences, The Safety of the Kingdom, in providing for some greater Strength
 at Sea, And the Prosperity of the Kingdom, in assisting the necessary Charge and Support
 of the Government.

And if any of these good Ends should happen to be disappointed, I call God and Men to
 Witness this day, That the Misfortune of that Disappointment shall not lie at My Door.

The rest I refer to the Chanc. Hor.

THE

Lord Chancellor's Speech.

*My Lords, and you the Knights, Citizens, and
Burgesses of the House of Commons.*



Y^e the most glorious Pleasure of the King, you are here again Admon-
bled to hold another Session of this Parliament: Wherein the King
expects your Advice and your Assistance, Your Advice in Matters
of the highest Deliberation, Your Assistance in Matters of extreme
and pressing Difficulty.

Your Deliberations will chiefly be Exercised about those Things which do belong
unto your Peace, The Peace of the Church and the Peace of the State. Two Con-
siderations of so close a Connexion between themselves, that in the very Original
Writ of Summons, by virtue of which you still sit here, they are jointly Recom-
mended to your Counsel and your Care.

The Peace of the Church is harder to preserve than the Peace of the State. For
they who desire Innovations in the State, most Commonly begin the Attempt upon
the Church.

And by this means it comes to pass, That the Peace of the Church is so often dis-
turb'd, not only by those poor mistaken Souls, who deserve to be pity'd, but by
malicious and designing Men, who deserve to be punish'd. And while Things contin-
ue in this Estate, it cannot be avoided but that the Laws which are necessary to re-
strain the malicious, must and will sometimes disquiet and wound those that are well.

What Remedies are fit for this Disease, whether the Fault be in the Laws, or in
the Men, in the Men that should Obey, or in the Men that should Execute. Whe-
ther the Cure be a Work of Time and Patience, or of Zeal and Diligence. Or whe-
ther any new Expedient can be found to secure the Ship from that Storm which the
swelling of two contrary Tides seems to threaten, is wholly left to your Advice.
The King hath call'd you for that End, and doubts not, but your Counsels will
be such as shall tend to safety and to establishment.

The Peace of the State requires as much of Your Care and Vigilance too, Our
Peace at home, and Our Peace abroad.

As for this abroad, We are at this time, Blessed be God for his Mercy to Us, and
Blessed be the King for his Care of Us, in perfect Peace with all the Nations up-
on Earth: Such a Peace as makes Us the Envy of the Christian World, and hath
enabled Us to do our selves Right against the Infidels: Such a Peace as brings
with it all the fruits of Peace, and deserves not only our Prayers for the continuance
of

of it, but our best and most Watchful Care that nothing may be done on Our part to give it an Interruption.

But then We must consider again, ~~that~~ Our Peace abroad will not subsist any longer than while We do maintain our Peace at home; for without this, no Kingdom can be able to Act in its full strength, and without that, the Friendship or Enmity of any Nation ceases to be considerable to its Neighbours.

Now 'tis a great and a dangerous mistake in those, Who think the Peace at home is well enough preserv'd, so long as the sword is not drawn; Whereas in Truth nothing Deserves the Name of Peace, but Unity.

Such an Unity as flows from an unshaken Trust and Confidence between the King and his People, from a due reverence and obedience to his Laws, and to his Government, from a Religious and an Awful care, not to remove the Ancient Landmarks, nor to disturb those Constitutions which Time and Publique convenience hath settled, from a Zeal to preserve the whole frame and Order of the Government upon the old Foundations, and from a perfect Detestation and Abhorrency of all such as are given to change, Whatever falls short of this, falls short of Peace too.

If therefore there be any Endeavors to renew, nay, if there be not all the Endeavors that can be to Extinguish the Memory of all former Provocations and Offences, and the Occasions of the like for the future, If there be such Divisions as beget great thoughts of Heart, shall we call this Peace, because it is not War, or because Men do not yet take the Field? As well we may call it Health when there is a Dangerous fermentation in the blood and spirits, because the Patient hath not yet taken his Bed.

And yet as Evident as it is that all we have or hope for depends upon the preservation of Our Peace and Unity at home, As certain as it is that no care to preserve it will be wanting here, Nevertheless it remains still to be wish'd that even this very Point were no part of those Difficulties we are now to struggle with.

For there are many more which without your Aid and your Assistance can never be overcome.

One is the Weakness of our Fleet: For strength and weakness can no otherwise be judg'd of than by comparison: And by this measure We may truly Judge our Fleet to be less Considerable than it was, because ours stands at a stay, while our Neighbours round about us are improv'd.

This is an Affair wherein no Time would be lost, Because when ever we set about it, it will take up some considerable Time before it can be finish'd.

Another Weight there is which lies very heavy upon the Revenue, and that is the Debts which encumber it: Justice and Honor oblige the King not to forsake those who have assisted Him with their Estates in the Defence of the Publique. And although the Necessary issues of His Revenue, in the many new and changeable emergencies of State, did for a while postpone their satisfaction, Yet His Majesty hath now gone very far in it, and hath provided for the Security and payment of an immense

menſe Summer, with ſuch Difficulties, but a juſt and Generous Prince would
 not have undergone.

And now ſhould the reſt of his Revenue fail, or fail to be unladen in ſome Degree,
 the inconvenience to the Publique, and the Inſecurity of all our Affairs would quick-
 ly be too manifeſt.

One Difficulty more there is, without which all the Reſt were none, and that is the
 ſtrange Diffidence and Diſtruſt, which like a General Infection begins to ſpread it ſelf
 into, almoſt, all the Corners of the Land.

Much of this riſes from the Artifice of ill Men, who create and nourish all the Suſ-
 picions which they can Deviſe; But the cure of it lies perfectly in Your Hands, for all
 this will preſently vaniſh, as ſoon as Men ſhall ſee your Acquieſcence, and the fruits of
 it in a cheerful concurrence with His Maſty to all thoſe good and Publique Ends
 which He hath now ſo Earneſtly Recommended to You.

It would be ſomewhat ſtrange, and without all Example in Story, that a Nation
 ſhould be twice ruin'd, twice undone, by the ſelf ſame way and means, the ſame
Fears and Jealouſies.

Will any Man that doth but give himſelf leave to Think, reſuſe to Enjoy and take
 Comfort in the Bleſſings that are preſent, only for fear of future Changes and
 Alterations?

Surely 'tis enough for any Kingdom, and more than moſt Kingdoms in the
 World can boaſt of, to have their Affairs brought into ſuch a Condition, that
 they may in all Humane Probability, and unleſſe it be their Own Default, continue
 for a Long Time ſafe, and Happy.

Future Contingencies are not capable of any certain Proſpect: A Security Beyond
 that of Humane Probability, no Nation ever did, or ever ſhall Attain to.

If a Kingdom be Guarded by Nature againſt all Dangers from without, and then
 will Rely too much upon what Nature hath done for them; If a Kingdom be warn'd
 and caution'd againſt all Dangers from within, by former Experiences, and then will
 either forget, or make no Uſe of thoſe Experiences; If a Kingdom be Powerful in Ship-
 ping and Navigation and then ſee their Neighbors Endeavouring to Overpower them
 that way, without being ſollicitous enough to Augment and Re-inforce their own
 Naval Strength; If a Kingdom be Happy in the frequent Aſſemblies of their Great
 Councils, where all that is grievous may be Redreſs'd, and all that is wanting may
 be Reaſted, and then will render thoſe Councils uſeleſs and impracticable, by conti-
 nuing endleſs Diſtractions. Who can wonder if their Affairs ſhould begin to be leſs
 Proſperous, when otherwiſe, Humanely ſpeaking, and in all common Probability,
 their Condition would have been out of the reach of Fortune, and their Security
 in a manner Impregnable.

My Lords and Gentlemen,
 If the preſaging malice of our Enemies ſhould pretend to foretell any ſuch Fate as
 this to befall us, the Wiſdom and Magnanimity of this Great Council will quickly be
 too hard for all their Anguiſh. The Honor and the Loyalty of this Auguſt and Ve-

acrabie

nerable Assembly will leave no kind of ~~any such Division~~ in excellent a Monarchy, ~~for~~ ^{for} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~constitution and temper of Government.~~ ^{constitution and temper of Government.} You that remember what the ~~want of~~ ^{want of} ~~this~~ ^{this} ~~Government cost us,~~ ^{Government cost us,} and the miserable ~~disturbances~~ ^{disturbances} which attended it, have all the ~~same~~ ^{same} ~~obligations~~ ^{obligations} that can be to secure & advance the interest of it.

The King on his part meets you with so open and so full a heart, and is so absolutely resolv'd and determin'd to do all that in him lies to glad the hearts of his people, that it must be these strangest infelicity in the World, if either he or his subjects should meet with any disappointments here.

For the King hath no desires but what are publique, no ends or aims which terminate in himself. All his endeavors are so entirely bent upon the welfare of all his Dominions, that he doth not think any man a good subject who doth not heartily love his Country: And therefore let no man pass for a good patriot, who doth not as heartily love and serve his Prince.

Private men indeed are subject to be misled by Private Interests, and may entertain some vain and slender Hopes of surviving the Misfortunes of the Publick; But a Prince is sure to fall with it, and therefore can never have any Interests divided from it. To Live and Die with the King is the Highest Profession a Subject can make, and sometimes 'tis a Profession only and no more. But in a King it is an absolute necessity, 'tis a Fate inevitable, that He must Live and Die with his People.

Away then with all the vain Imaginations of those who labour to insinuate a difference of the Government; Away with those ill mean Distinctions between the Court and the Country, between the Natural and the Politick Capacity; And let all who go about to persuade others that there are two several Interests, have a Care of that Precipice to which such principles may lead them. For the first Men that ever began to Distinguish of their Duty, never left off till they had quite Distinguished themselves out of their Allegiance.

~~My Words and Sentiments,~~ The King hath long had, and still retains such Honourable thoughts of his Councils that We ought to make it one great part of our business to deserve the Continuance of His Majesties Grace and good Opinion.

Let no Contention then come near this Place, but that of a Noble Emulation who shall serve his Country best, by well serving of the King: Let no Faction rise here, but that of a Pious Zeal to lay hold upon all Opportunities of Promoting the honour and service of the Crown: Let our Enemies despair of ever breaking by any disorders amongst us.

And let all who Pray for the long Life and Prosperity of the King, and their Endeavours to their Prayers, and study to prolong this Sacred Day, by giving Him all the joys of Heaven which can arise from the Demonstrations of the People and the Warm Affections of His People.

